ARTEMIS INSTITUTE
-NOT FAR FROM
THE POMPO HILLS-

I WAS NEAR YOUR ISLAND ...

I WENT BEFORE DOC TO PREPARE EVERY-THING...

AND THAT'S WHEN THEY GOT ME.

SO IT'S KIND OF MY FAULT IF THEY LOCKED YOU UP...

LONG-HAIRED WOMAN AND HORNS... THEY TOOK YOU FOR ALMA AND ME.

THEY WERE LOOKING FOR MR. BOOBRIE AND ME!

BUT IT GOT OUT OF HAND WHEN THEY DISCOVERED MY INFECTION.

IT'S NOT JUST THAT... AT FIRST THEY WERE ONLY ASKING QUESTIONS...

IT ALWAYS COMES OUT AT THE WORSE MOMENTS, IT'S VERY EMBARRASSING.

MISTER BOOBRIE

MELIE

-TRAPPER SORCERESS-

ARTEMIS INSTITUTE

OF COURSE, SIR!

YOU CAN START BY CALLING ME SETH...

IN ANY CASE, I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR SAVING ME, SIR!

HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING?

I'LL STOP, FORGIVE ME, SIR!

HOW COULD IT GET WORSE?

AND THEY HAVE MY PAPERS.

BECAUSE OF HIM I LOST MY NEMESIS, HIT INQUISITION SOLDIERS AND ESCAPED...

BUT DON'T WORRY, THE NEXT ONE IS ONLY IN THREE WEEKS!

IT'S TOO BAD, YOU JUST MISSED THE ENTRY CEREMONY HAPPENING RIGHT NOW ON THE UPPER BRIDGE!

GREAT, THEN YOU'LL BE UNDER HIS RESPONSIBILITY UNTIL YOUR RECRUITMENT!

DOC!

WELCOME, NEWCOMER! DID YOU COME HERE WITH A MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE?

OH, SO IT CAN GET WORSE ...

THREE WEEKS?!

ENTRY CERE-MONY!

WHERE ARE WE GOIIING?!

THREE WEEKS WITH HIM AND I'LL END UP BURNED AT THE STAKE!

UNTIL THEN FEEL FREE TO WANDER AROUND OUR SHOPS AND...

HFF HFF HFF HFF HFF

NICE! A NEW CEREMONY, MISTER BOOBRIE!

I DIDN'T COME FOR THIIIS!

F. SHOP

STARDUST COFFEE

CHAPTER 4

MLM SHOW

POTIONS

KABOOM

!!

A MAP, GREAT! LET'S SEE...

MAP

MY POOR HEART! PHEW... I DIDN'T EAT ENOUGH YESTERDAY, I SHOULD HAVE EATEN MORE GRASS.

DOESN'T REALLY LOOK LIKE A RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

YOU ARE NOT HERE

YOU ARE NOT HERE

YOU ARE SO FAR FROM HERE !

WE HOPE YOU ARE NOT HERE

PLEASE, LOOK AT HERE

SOMEONE ELSE IS HERE

WHAT THE HELL ?!

OVER THERE!

SORCERERS AND WITCHES...

LADIES AND GENTS ...

I WANT TO SEE ALL YOUR HANDS UP IN THE AIR BECAUSE NOW...

ALWAYS INSPIRING US TO BE BETTER!

MAKE SOME NOISE FOOOOR...

SWOOSH

I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO OUR SUNLIGHT!

SWOOSH

THE FOUNDER OF THIS CRAZY INSTITUTE!

MAJESTYYY !

MASTEEER ...

LOOORD ...

A YELLOW CAT?

AND ONE DAY, THANKS TO ALL OF YOU, MEMBERS AND FUTURE MEMBERS OF THE ARTEMIS...

ONE DAY, I TELL YOU...

TODAY, NEW MEMBERS ARE JOINING OUR FAMILY TO HELP US FULFILL OUR GREAT MISSION!

YOU ALL KNOW HOW IMPORTANT TODAY IS.

I'M GLAD TO SEE SO MANY PEOPLE GATHERED HERE TODAY!

MY CUTIES!

YEAAH!!

YAAAY!!

AND OUR INFECTIONS WILL BE GONE!!

YEAH!

WE WILL FIND A CURE!

HE GETS A BIT ANGRY WHEN I'M HAVING FUN!

OUCH!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR BIRD?

BUT WITH CEREMONIES... THE MOOD, THE ATMOSPHERE... I JUST CAN'T HELP IT!!

THEN TAKE A SHOWER!

AND YOU, YOUR HAIR WON'T STINK ANYMORE!

YOU WILL FINALLY BE ABLE TO HEAR BECAUSE YOU WILL STOP FARTING THROUGH YOUR EARS!

YOU WON'T PISS ICE CUBES ANYMORE!

BUT... THAT'S NOT MY INFEC-TION!

WHAT DID HE SAY?

YEAH!

HOORAY!

WRAK

!

!!

NOW, ALL THE NEWCOMERS, SEEKERS, HUNTERS AND OTHERS, COME ON THE STAGE WITH ME!

C'MON !!

THE NEXT PERSON I HEAR YELLING GETS IT.

PWIIII !

WTF?!

WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE?

?

NOOO... NOT HERE...

IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME THING WITH HER! SHE'S ALL HAPPY AND SMILING AND THEN...

AGAIN?

LOOKS LIKE SHE'S ANGRY!

I RECOGNIZE HER... IT'S MELIE, THAT CRAZY GIRL!!

SHOM

KOO

DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT STAYING ...

SHOM

KLIK

GULP, THAT LOOK!

NOW I UNDER-STAND HOW I MISTOOK HER FOR ALMA.

SHE'S USUALLY CALM AND UNSURE OF HERSELF BUT DURING A FIT SHE BECOMES ANGRY AND VIOLENT.

I BET SHE'S THE ONE THAT ATTACKED THE INQUISITOR...

THAT'S HER INFECTIONS: HER EMOTIONS GET REVERSED.

BWII

I'M LOST HERE...

I BETTER GO BEFORE I TEAR YOU ALL TO PIECES.

ALL THIS CHEERFULNESS IS GETTING ANNOYING.

WELCOME !!

LET'S GET BACK TO THE PARTY NOW!

HA HA! SO MUCH ENERGY, MY CUTIES!

NEWCOMERS, COME HERE!

HEY, YOU LOOKIN' FOR A FIGHT?!

FAAAN-TASTIC!!

EXCEL-LENT! YOU!

HELLO, I'VE BEEN INFECTED RECENTLY, I'M MORE INTO POTIONS AS WELL AS HAIR-DRESSING...

GREAT! YOU!

ERM... HAPPY ROTTER, 19YO, I GRADUATED IN SORCERY AT...

YOU!

WELCOME!!

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF, YOUR LIFE, YOUR DREAMS, ETC...

FWIP

FINALLY GOT RID OF HIM!

AND YOU HERE ...

SIGN HERE ...

ALL RIGHT, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT.

YOUR CON-TRACTS!

ONE LAST FORMALITY!

Contract

Contract

Contract

THE ONLY THING YOU NEED TO DO IN EXCHANGE IS TO HELP US WITH OUR RESEARCH.

AS WELL AS CLASSES GIVEN BY THE BEST SORCERERS!

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE A SEEKER, A HUNTER OR MAKING FEATHER WEAPONS!

BUT I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND IT ON THE ARTEMIS!

I CAN'T PRETEND TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR...

BY BECOMING A MEMBER YOU WILL GAIN ACCESS TO EVERYTHING! LIBRARIES, LABORATORIES, TRAINING FACILITIES, TOOLS, ZOOS, CASINOS...

!!

CALM DOWN, I DIDN'T COME HERE FOR THAT!

HMM?

SO?

WHAT DID SHE SAY AGAIN?

"...TRUST THE YELLOW CAT..."

"A WORD OF ADVICE..."

"...THRUST THE YELLOW CAT."

THAT WAS IT, "TRUST THE YELLOW CAT"!

THAT DOESN'T MEAN ANY-THING!

Contract

SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

CRIIIK

GOOD-BYYE!

YEAAH!

YAY!

A STANDING OVATION FOR OUR CUTE NEW MEMBERS!

WOOO!

YAHOO!

AND THE INK OF COUR-SE!

370 FOR BORROWING LORD MAJESTY'S PEN!

780 FOR A NAP IN THE PARK?!

AND FOR WATCHING THE ZOO ANIMALS FROM AFAR!

YOUR DEBTS!

THANKS!

HERE'S A FRUIT COCKTAIL TO CELEBRATE!

WHAT'S THIS? A NOTE?

THEY WERE FOLDED UP!!

IT'S IN YOUR CONTRACT!

YES I CAN...

THIS IS MADNESS!

YOU CAN'T FORCE US TO PAY!

YES! I CAN! IT'S IN YOUR CONTRACT!

YOU CAN'T DO THIS!

BUT... THERE'S ONLY ONE DICE? THE OTHER IS JUST CHEESE!

OOOH... ONLY ONE SIX!

HMM... YOU, I SAW YOU SCREAM AND SHAKE YOUR ARMS DURING THE WHOLE CEREMONY, GOOD!

IT'S TIME TO GIVE ONE OF YOU THE CHANCE TO GET RID OF HIS DEBT!

ME!

ME!

NEWCOMERS, I BID YOU GOOD LUCK!

AND SO OUR 854TH CEREMONY COMES TO AN END!

TAKE THESE. GET A DOUBLE SIX AND YOU'RE DEBT-FREE.

GOOD-BYE!!

SEE YOU IN THREE WEEKS!

NOW I REMEMBER...

DON'T TRUST THE YELLOW CAT...

HUP!

STREET THEATRE

WHAT?!

SETH !

NOT HER AGAIN!

I WANTED TO ASK HIM SOME-THING...

BY THE WAY, DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?

I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT LEAVING YOU HERE LIKE THAT!

I WAS AFRAID I WOULDN'T FIND YOU!

ME? BUT...

BUT MAYBE YOU CAN HELP ME?

COME ON, I DON'T KNOW ANYONE HERE!

IT'S JUST THAT...

HEM... DON'T WORRY, DOC EX-PLAINED EVERY-THING TO ME.

AND TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, YOU REMIND ME OF SOMEONE.

IT'S YOUR INFECTION, NOT LIKE YOU CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

YOU MEAN I DON'T SCARE YOU?

AFTER KNOWING WHAT MY INFECTION WAS, I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO LIKE EVERYONE HERE...

AVOID ME...

BUT DON'T WORRY, I'M USED TO IT.

?

I CAN DEAL WITH IT.

OF COURSE YOU DO!

HIM TOO... IN THE END THERE'S ONLY YOU, MISTER BOOBRIE!

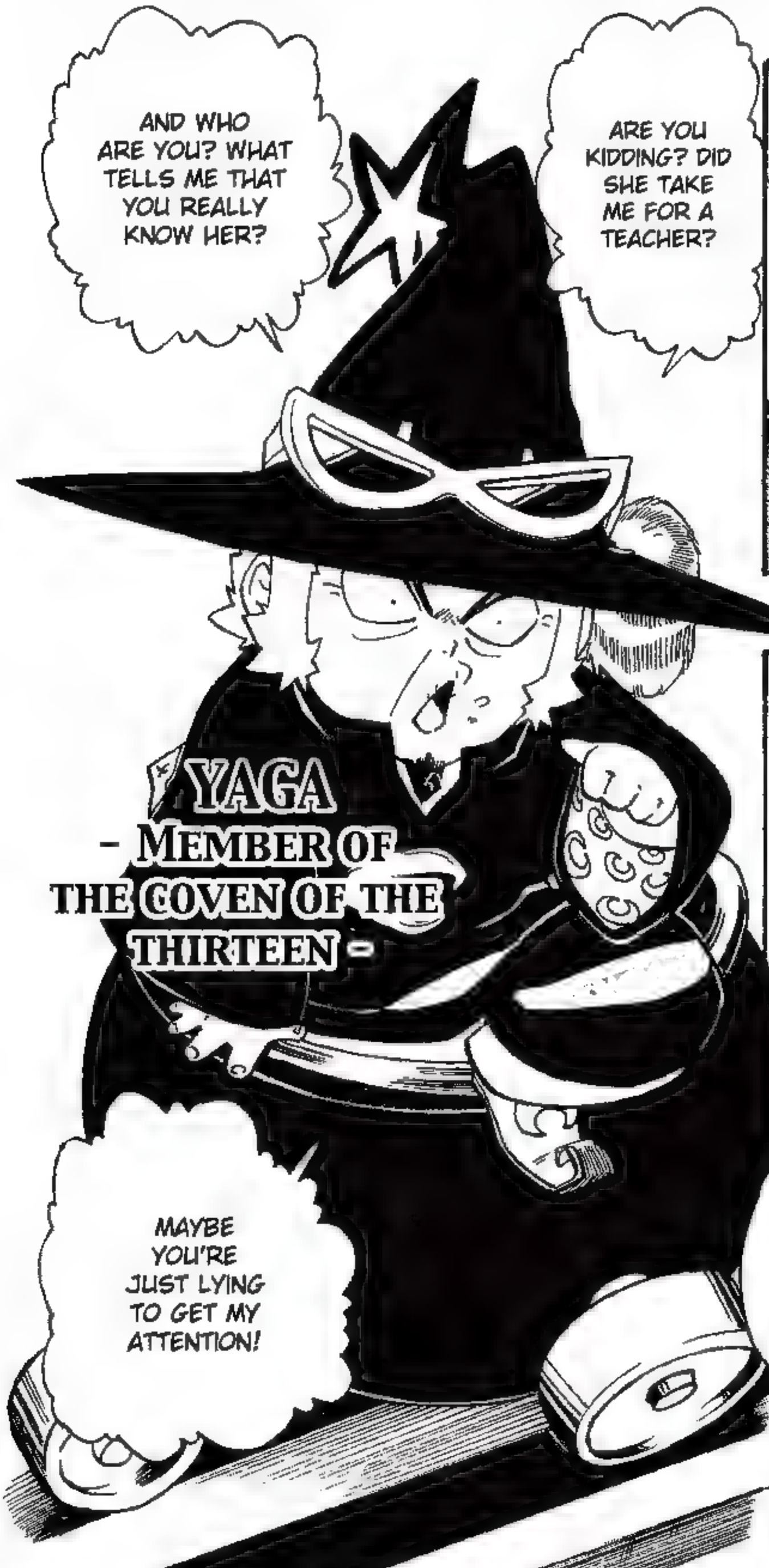
OUCH...

CONFINED ON HIS DECK CHAIR?

HERE HE IS!

ACCORDING TO THE RUMOURS, THAT'S WHERE HE SPENDS HIS TIME.

CONFINED ON HIS DECK CHAIR.


AND WHO ARE YOU? WHAT TELLS ME THAT YOU REALLY KNOW HER?
ARE YOU KIDDING? DID SHE TAKE ME FOR A TEACHER?
YAGA
– MEMBER OF THE COVEN OF THE THIRTEEN –
MAYBE YOU'RE JUST LYING TO GET MY ATTENTION!

I CAME HERE TO LEARN WITCHCRAFT!
...
HMM... YAGA?
CAN'T YOU SEE I'M RETIRED?
ALMA SAYS HE'S THE BEST!
THERE ARE OTHER INSTRUCTORS ON THE ARTEMIS...
!!
YEP! SHE TOLD ME YOU COULD TEACH ME THE BASICS!
DID YOU SAY ALMA?
ALMA THE WITCH FROM THE POMPO HILLS?

TSK... DAMN IT!

KRAK

?

ITCHY BACK?

IF ALMA REALLY SENT YOU, THEN I GUESS I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.

WHAT DO YOU USE? GLOVE, WEAPONS, WANDS?

I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO...

BUT DON'T EVER DO IT AGAIN!

OK I BELIEVE YOU!

STOP! STOP! STOP! DO YOU WANT ME TO DIE?

NO NEED TO TELL ME, I SCARED MYSELF!

LEAVE ME ALONE AND FIND ANOTHER BABYSITTER!

!!

I SEE. A COMPLETE BEGINNER, RIGHT?

NOTHING... BUT I HAVE A GLOVE!

ER...

GOOD! MAKES IT EASIER FOR ME. HERE'S YOUR FIRST LESSON ...

HEY, ISN'T THAT A SURPRISE CEREMONY OVER THERE?

REALLY ?!

WHERE ?!

HUM!

YOU CAN'T JUST ASK HIM TO TEACH A BEGINNER!

YAGA IS ONE OF THE THIRTEEN OF THE UPPER COVEN. HE TAUGHT THE BEST SORCERERS!

DOES SHE ALSO EXPECT ME TO CHANGE HIS DIAPER?

A BEGINNER, REALLY...

?!

WHIZ

MM

AND I MADE A PROMISE! I CAN'T LET YOU GO WITH-OUT...

BUT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SHUT UP!

IF ALMA SENT ME TO YOU IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN HELP ME!

HEY, OLD MAN!

SLOP

SLOP

METEOR DROPS!!

SLOP

KLONK

OOPS, LOOKS LIKE I GOT HIM ANGRY!!

CAULDRON CRUSH!!!

!!!

WHOOOM

WHOOOM

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT. THE FANTASIA ISN'T CLINGING TO HIS GLOVE ...

HE'S TERRIBLE.

BUT I DID SENSE A DISTURBANCE IN THE FLOW. SOMETHING UNCOMMON... ABNORMAL EVEN!

MY LESSONS WON'T BE AS EASY, KID!

WELL? YOU'LL HAVE TO DO WAY BETTER THAN THIS...

I FIND IT REGRETTABLE THAT SORCERERS ESCAPED FROM YOUR GRASP.

THE YOUNGEST OF THE WITCH'S ACCOMPLICES, A HORNED BOY, COMMITTED A HERESY I THOUGHT IMPOSSIBLE. AFTER DRINKING SOME SORT OF POTION...

I SAW HIM CAST A SPELL BARE-HANDED!

BUT IT ISN'T THE ONLY REASON FOR MY PRESENCE HERE, GENERAL.

THEN SPEAK, CAPTAIN.

HOWEVER, IT IS COMMENDABLE THAT YOU CAME IN PERSON TO ADMIT YOUR FAULT, CAPTAIN DRAGUNOV.

I WILL REMEMBER THAT WHEN DECIDING YOUR PUNISHMENT.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY, GENERAL!

AT YOUR COMMAND, GENERAL.

AND NOT A WORD OF THIS TO ANYONE, CAPTAIN.

...

FOLLOW THE ARTEMIS AND WARN ME IF YOU SEE THIS BOY AGAIN.

HORNED, YOU SAID?

HE MUST HAVE MADE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL TO GET SUCH POWERS!

YES, GENERAL.

WE BOTH KNOW HOW ALARMING THIS SORCERER'S POTENTIAL IS.

WE MUST GET OUR HANDS ON HIM.

A HORNED BOY WIELDING FANTASIA BAREHANDED ...

ANOTHER ONE, MY FRIEND.

TORQUE "THE BEAST"
-GENERAL INQUISITOR-

BROUGHT TO
YOU BY:
ROL